

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0147

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1472

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GV PO PU

SUBJECT : SEKOU TOURE ON GUINEA-BISSAU AND OTHER PORTUGUESE
TERRITORIES

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT TOURE SEPTEMBER 25, I
VOLUNTTED THAT USG WAS GRATIFIED BY RECENT EVENTS IN GUINEA-
BISSAU AND OTHER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, INCLUDING RECENT RECOG-
NITION BY PORTUGAL OF GUINEA-BISSAU INDEPENDENCE. WE BELIEVE
THAT NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS SINCERE ABOUT DECOLONIZATION.
TEST OF THIS SINCERITY CAME AT TIME ATTEMPTED INSURRECTION BY
WHITE PORTUGUESE SETTLERS IN MOZAMBIQUE. PORTUGUESE IMMEDIATE
AND DECISIVE ACTION IN PUTTING DOWN INSURRECTION, WE FELT,
PROVED THEIR GOOD FAITH.

2. PRESIDENT TOURE RESPONDED FIRST BY AGREEING THAT PORTUGUESE
SEEMED SINCERE ABOUT DECOLONIZATION IN GUINEA-BISSAU AND MOZAM-
BIQUE. ANGOLA, HOWEVER, WAS ANOTHER STORY. HE SAID THAT POR-
TUGUESE HAD NOT YET TAKEN DECISIVE ACTION THERE TO SHOW THEIR
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SINCERITY ABOUT DECOLONIZATION, AND HE BELIEVED THAT PORTUGUESE

POLICY WAS DIFFERENT. THIS WAS PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF PORTUGUESE SETTLERS AND PARTLY FOR ECONOMIC REASONS. TOURE INSISTED THAT PORTUGUESE COULD FORM PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA ALONG LINES OF MOZAMBIQUE MODEL DRAWING ON LEADERS OF TWO MAIN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE DENIED THAT CONFLICT BETWEEN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WAS IMPORTANT FACTOR PREVENTING THIS. HE INSISTED THAT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WOULD AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

3. PRESIDENT TOURE SEEMED RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS GUINEA-BISSAU. HE DID NOT COMMENT AT ALL ON GUINEA-BISSAU SEPTEMBER 24 ANNI-VERSARY CLEBRATIONS EITHER IN MADINA DA BOE OR CONAKRY, EXCEPT TO STATE THAT GUINEAN DELEGATION HAD JUST RETURNED FROM GUINEA-BISSAU. NOR DID HE COMMENT ON CAPE VERDE ISLANDS QUESTION. TOURE SAID ONLY, WITH GREAT EMPHASIS, "US SHOULD HELP GUINEA-BISSAU NOW". HE CONTINUED THAT THEY GREATLY NEEDED ASSISTANCE AT THIS TIME; ANYTHING DONE IMMEDIATELY WOULD BE MUCH MORE VALUABLE THAN SOMETHING US MIGHT DO LATER. TOURE REPEATED THIS STATEMENT AT END OF CONVERSATION -- "HELP THEM NOW."
TODMAN

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